

Minutes
West Tisbury Space Needs Committee
March 19, 2007

Present: Chuck Hodgkinson, Sue Hruby, Bob Schwartz, Joe Eldredge, Kent Healy, Hermine Hull, Kathy Logue, Les Cutler and guests, Joan Ames and Jim Osmundsen

Chuck opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. at Howes House

Preparation for Town Meeting

Chuck updated the group regarding his discussion with Pat Gregory regarding the Annual Town meeting. He then reviewed the warrant article and there was discussion about how or whether to include costs in the article language. The group decided to wait until the next meeting to finalize this decision.

April 4th Public Hearing

The group decided on 3 agenda items:

- 1) Review the Committee recommendation
- 2) Review all the options (5 minutes each)
- 3) Public Comments and discussion

Joan Ames added that she thought full information and disclosure regarding all the options considered was a good direction.

Les presented the results given to us by Candy DaRosa of Karen Overtom Real Estate regarding the possible resale and restoration of the Town Hall as a private residence, developed under design controls by the historic district. Les said it was their opinion the Town could realize \$950 to 975M from the sale of the town hall and related property.

The group agreed we should also assess what we could realize if we sold the Lambert's Cove Road property. Les agreed to ask someone in Karen's organization if they would do this for us.

Joan noted that we don't really have an accurate reading on how the town feels about the options. She suggested that VCS has taken polls at the meeting such as a handout at the start of the meeting. There was discussion about how to solicit town views. Joan commented that an Australian Ballot might help us. This has worked in Aquinnah. There was some discussion regarding the pros and cons of doing this as well as the general consensus that West Tisbury's tax rate is high and there is great dissatisfaction with this. Capital costs are \$900K on a \$12MM budget; it is the base budget, including school costs, that are driving the tax rate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Hruby

Approved: March 26, 2007